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Art Unit 1646

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/756,283; Filed: January 9, 2001

Inventors:

Latent Fusion Protein

Our Ref:

Chernajovsky et al. 0623.1000000/LBB/PAJ

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 with Exhibits A through D; and
- 2. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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PAJ:aye Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Chernajovsky et al.

Appl. No. 09/756,283

Filed: January 9, 2001

For: Latent Fusion Protein

Confirmation No.: 5963

Art Unit: 1646

Examiner: Andres, Janet L.

Atty. Docket: 0623.1000000/LBB/PAJ

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated September 23, 2003, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims; and
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.